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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(for the period 1 October 1992-31 March 1993)

Introduction

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, the Security Council established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait border and decided to set up an observer unit with the following tasks: to monitor the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and the DMZ; to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the DMZ; and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State into the other. By its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the above provisions (S/22454); noted that the decision to set up the observer unit had been taken in paragraph 5 of resolution 687 (1991) and could be terminated only by a decision of the Council; and decided to review the question of termination or continuation as well as the modalities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) every six months. The Security Council last reviewed this matter on 9 October 1992 and concurred with my recommendation (S/24615, para. 27) that UNIKOM be maintained for a further six-month period (S/24649). The purpose of the present report is to provide the Security Council, prior to its forthcoming review, with an overview of UNIKOM's activities during the last six months.

I. ORGANIZATION

2. As of March 1993, the composition of UNIKOM was as follows:

Military observers

Argentina	7	
Austria	7	
Bangladesh	7	
Canada	1	
China	15	
Denmark	6	
Fiji	6	
Finland	6	
France	15	
Ghana	6	
Greece	6	
Hungary	6	
India	6	
Indonesia	6	
Ireland	6	
Italy	6	
Kenya	6	
Malaysia	6	
Nigeria	7	
Norway	8	
Pakistan	7	
Poland	6	
Romania	6	
Russian Federation	15	
Senegal	7	
Singapore	7	
Sweden	6	
Thailand	7	
Turkey	6	
United Kingdom	15	
Uruguay	6	
United States of America	14	
Venezuela	6	
Total		247 a/

Administrative and logistic units

Logistics (Denmark)	45	
Medical (Norway)	20	
Total		65
Total military personnel		312

a/ The authorized strength of the military observers is 300, of whom 53 are on stand-by in their countries.

UNIKOM also has 188 civilian staff, of whom 80 are recruited internationally and 108 locally.

3. Major-General T. K. Dibuama (Ghana) continues as Chief Military Observer.

4. The Government of Canada withdrew its engineer unit at the end of March, and I have accepted Argentina's offer to replace it.

5. The Government of Chile withdrew its helicopter unit at the end of October 1992. It was replaced by a civilian unit, under contract to UNIKOM, which provides three helicopters. UNIKOM also has two small fixed-wing aircraft contributed by the Government of Switzerland at no cost to the Organization and it has the use of a chartered aircraft for the transport of personnel and equipment between Baghdad and Kuwait.

6. During the period under review, the Canadian engineers disposed of 10,000 pieces of ordnance, constructed 3,000 metres of security fencing around UNIKOM headquarters and Camp Khor, constructed two new airstrips and maintained 1,500 kilometres of existing patrol routes. They also assisted the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission by clearing and constructing roads into 106 border pillar points, enabling the surveyors and contractors to work in safe areas, and by assisting with the transportation and the emplacement of the border pillars. In preparation for its arrival, the intended campsite for the reinforcement infantry battalion, approximately 3 square kilometres, was cleared and levelled. Also, durable observation towers were erected at all patrol/observation bases.

7. The Danish logistic unit continued to carry out vehicle maintenance, supply and security tasks, the latter mainly for the headquarters facilities at Umm Qasr and Camp Khor and for the logistic base in Doha.

8. The Norwegian medical unit maintained a sick-bay facility at Umm Qasr, serving the headquarters and the northern sector, and first aid posts at the central and southern sector headquarters. The unit also provided emergency assistance to civilians injured by exploding ordnance.

II. STRENGTHENING OF UNIKOM

9. Following a series of incidents in January (see paras. 18-24 below), the Security Council, on 5 February 1993, adopted resolution 806 (1993), by which it approved my report of 18 January 1993 (S/25123) and extended UNIKOM's terms of reference to include the capacity to take physical action to prevent or redress:

(a) Small-scale violations of the DMZ;

(b) Violations of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, for example by civilians or police; and

(c) Problems that might arise from the presence of Iraqi installations and Iraqi citizens and their assets in the DMZ on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary.

10. In my report of 18 January I had suggested that in order to carry out these tasks, UNIKOM's unarmed military observers should be replaced by three mechanized infantry battalions with appropriate support elements. In approving

my report, the Security Council requested me to execute a phased deployment of the strengthening of UNIKOM, taking into account the need for economy and other relevant factors, and to report to the Council on any step I intend to take following the initial deployment. After consulting with members of the Council, I plan in the first phase to retain the military observers and to reinforce them by one mechanized infantry battalion to be deployed in the northern sector of the DMZ, which includes the towns of Umm Qasr and Safwan. UNIKOM's logistic support elements will be reinforced slightly, that is, the Danish logistic unit will be brought up to 50, the incoming engineer unit will also comprise 50, and the medical unit is to be raised to 35, all ranks.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

11. The DMZ is about 200 kilometres long, to which must be added the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, with a length of about 40 kilometres. For the most part, the DMZ is barren and almost uninhabited, except for the towns of Umm Qasr and Safwan. There are airfields at Safwan and Umm Qasr and a port at Umm Qasr.

12. The boundaries of the DMZ, which extends 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait, have been adjusted to align them with the international border as demarcated by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission. The boundaries of the DMZ have been marked at 1-kilometre intervals and at major entry points; in addition, a road has been constructed along their entire length. The DMZ is now clearly identifiable on both sides.

13. UNIKOM remained deployed in the DMZ as outlined in previous reports (see attached map). For operational purposes it has divided the DMZ into three sectors. At the end of February 1993, the sectors were slightly adjusted so that there are now seven patrol/observation bases in the northern sector, six in the central sector, and five in the southern sector. The northern sector has thus been strengthened in response to operational requirements.

14. UNIKOM's concept of operations is based on a combination of patrol/observation bases, observation points, ground and air patrols, investigation teams and liaison with the parties at all levels. UNIKOM employs surveillance aids, which include maritime radar for the Khawr Abd Allah, night vision devices, high-powered binoculars and video cameras. In addition, UNIKOM uses the Global Positioning System for the accurate determination of locations in the terrain.

15. UNIKOM has liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City, and the Chief Military Observer and other senior staff of UNIKOM have maintained regular contacts with the authorities in both capitals. At the local level, liaison continued with the police on both sides, particularly with regard to civilian activity in the DMZ. These contacts have been useful in dealing with complaints and facilitating UNIKOM's operations.

IV. SITUATION IN THE DMZ

16. During the first part of the reporting period, the situation in the DMZ was generally calm. However, considerable tension arose at the beginning of the year as a result of Iraqi activities at Umm Qasr.

17. In the summer of 1991, the Iraqi authorities had begun to retrieve equipment and other items from the former Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr under arrangements made by UNIKOM in consultation with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities, since the naval base is within 1,000 metres of the boundary line then shown on UNIKOM's map. UNIKOM monitored this activity and, in cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator for the Return of Property from Iraq to Kuwait, satisfied itself about the ownership of the items involved. Towards the end of last year, as the work of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission progressed, it became known that the newly demarcated boundary placed the naval base on Kuwaiti territory. Although the demarcation had not yet been completed formally, UNIKOM alerted the Iraqi authorities on 24 December 1992 that the retrieval of items on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary would have to come to an end and requested that all such activity cease by 15 January 1993. The Iraqi authorities accepted this deadline. UNIKOM kept the Kuwaiti authorities informed of these exchanges.

18. On 2 January 1993, some 250 Iraqis entered the former naval base at Umm Qasr to retrieve Iraqi property, including prefabricated buildings, fences, street lamps and other items. The Iraqi personnel came with various military vehicles and about half of them wore military uniforms. This was a serious violation of the DMZ, which was immediately and vigorously protested.

19. Iraqi personnel, in civilian clothes and without military vehicles, continued to retrieve property from the former naval base during the first days of January. On 8 January, the President of the Security Council wrote the Secretary-General that the Council's members considered that the removal of the Iraqi property and assets from Kuwaiti territory should be undertaken only after prior clearance by UNIKOM and by the Kuwaiti authorities through UNIKOM and should be completed by 15 January 1993. In the same letter, the President of the Security Council expressed the concern of the members of the Council at the continued presence of six Iraqi police posts on Kuwaiti territory and the members' insistence on those posts' speedy removal, by 15 January at the latest (S/25085, annex I). The Iraqi authorities were informed of this letter both at United Nations Headquarters and in the field.

20. Further, on 8 January, the Iraqi authorities informed UNIKOM, and separately the United Nations Special Commission, that the United Nations would no longer be permitted to use its own aircraft in Iraq. On 8 January, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council, demanding that the Government of Iraq abide by its obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions and cooperate with the United Nations bodies and, in particular, not interfere with United Nations flights (S/25081).

21. In the morning of 10 January, some 200 Iraqi personnel with trucks and heavy loading equipment forced entry into six ammunition bunkers located in the former naval base, on Kuwaiti territory, and took away most of their contents, which the Security Council had previously ordered destroyed (S/25085,

annex III). I described these and related developments in my special report of 10 January 1993 (S/25085). On 11 January, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/25091).

22. Iraqi retrieval of property from Kuwaiti territory ended on 13 January and on 17/18 January the six Iraqi police posts located on Kuwaiti territory were withdrawn (S/25085/Add.1). Since then, the situation in the area has again been generally calm.

23. Apart from the events described above, UNIKOM observed three types of violations of the DMZ: minor incursions by military personnel on the ground, often inadvertently; overflights by military aircraft, most of which were unidentified; and violations involving the carrying and firing of weapons other than sidearms, the majority of which were committed by policemen. The following table summarizes the violations observed by UNIKOM:

	Iraq				Kuwait			
	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total
1-31 Oct.	1	0	2	3	1	0	2	3
1-30 Nov.	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
1-31 Dec.	0	0	1	1	1	1	7	9
1-31 Jan.	2	0	2	4	0	0	14	14
1-28 Feb.	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	4
1-31 Mar.	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
Total	4	1	6	11	2	2	31	35

	Member States cooperating with Kuwait				Unidentified			
	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total
1-31 Oct.	0	1	1	1	1	8	0	9
1-30 Nov.	0	5	0	5	1	5	0	6
1-31 Dec.	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
1-31 Jan.	1	0	0	1	0	8	0	8
1-28 Feb.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-31 Mar.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	1	6	0	7	2	26	1	29

UNIKOM raised these violations with the party concerned, with a view to having action taken to prevent a recurrence.

24. During the reporting period, UNIKOM received 27 written complaints from Iraq and 46 from Kuwait. UNIKOM investigated each complaint and conveyed its findings to the parties concerned. Many of the complaints concerned alleged firing at police posts close to the border. UNIKOM's investigation teams have repeatedly seen at these posts rifles and machine-guns, which are prohibited in

the DMZ. Increasingly, the police on both sides have denied UNIKOM access to their posts, apparently to prevent them from noticing these weapons.

25. As will be recalled, UNIKOM, with the agreement of both parties, has established 1,000 metres as a reasonable distance to be maintained from the border. UNIKOM requires that it be informed in advance and monitors closely activities within the 1,000-metre zone in order to prevent incidents. The persistent complaints about firing from police posts underline the continuing validity of this rule. At present, 13 Iraqi facilities of various kinds (customs posts, police posts and control points) and two Kuwaiti police posts are closer to the border than 1,000 metres. Seven of the Iraqi posts are in the towns of Safwan and Umm Qasr, which extend right up to the border and where a presence is required for the maintenance of law and order and to control border crossings. Major-General Dibuama, on my instructions, is in touch with the authorities concerned, with a view to reducing the presence in the 1,000-metre zone to the minimum necessary to perform these functions.

26. Most of the complaints pertain to areas where, as a result of the boundary demarcation, Iraqi citizens and assets have been found to be on the Kuwaiti side of the boundary, including the oil well heads at Ratqah, the farms in the Safwan area, and some assets at Umm Qasr. I am in touch with the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait with a view to having these issues settled in a reasonable way. In the meantime, UNIKOM patrols these sensitive areas by day and by night.

27. During the first part of the reporting period, as an expression of discontent with the impending border demarcation, there was some local agitation and harassment of UNIKOM staff at Umm Qasr. People threw rocks and other objects at passing UNIKOM vehicles, attempted to impede UNIKOM vehicles, inquired after certain nationalities, and refused to sell produce to UNIKOM personnel. These incidents have ceased.

28. UNIKOM continued to provide technical support to other United Nations missions in Iraq and Kuwait. In particular, it assisted the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission with air and ground transport, accommodation, communications and engineer support. Support in the form of accommodation and escorts was also provided to the United Nations Coordinator for the Return of Property from Iraq to Kuwait. UNIKOM continued to provide movement control in respect of all United Nations aircraft operating in the area.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

29. By its resolution 47/208 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of UNIKOM, subject to the review by the Security Council of the mandate of the Mission in respect of the period beyond 8 April 1993, at a rate not to exceed $3.3 million gross ($3.1 million net) per month for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1993. This authorization is subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

30. Present indications are that the cost of maintaining UNIKOM during the extension period, including the strengthening of the Mission, may exceed the

level of commitment authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 47/208. In such event, the Secretary-General will report to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly on the additional requirements needed for the maintenance of the Mission.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

31. During the last six months, UNIKOM's area of operations has, for the most part, been calm. In January, however, Iraqi actions created a serious situation. UNIKOM reacted promptly to these actions and made strong representations to the Iraqi military authorities. Based on UNIKOM's reports, such representations were also made at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Security Council was directly involved in these efforts. It is regrettable that Iraq did not respond positively to those démarches until Member States had credibly threatened, and then used, force.

32. The events of January have demonstrated the value of the United Nations presence on the border between Iraq and Kuwait as well as the need that it continue. I therefore recommend to the Security Council that it maintain UNIKOM for a further six-month period.

33. I have outlined in paragraph 10 above my plans for the strengthening of UNIKOM in accordance with Security Council resolution 806 (1993). I regret that I cannot report more progress in this matter. However, owing apparently to the increase in commitments to United Nations peace-keeping operations in general, it has not been possible so far to identify a Member State which is in a position to provide the mechanized infantry battalion to be deployed in the first phase. I hope to be able to revert to the Council on this matter in the near future.

34. UNIKOM will continue to depend on the cooperation of the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait in order to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council. In this connection, it will be of particular importance in the coming months that both sides exercise the necessary measure of restraint in order to prevent friction along the border so that outstanding issues such as those referred to in paragraph 26 above may be resolved reasonably.

35. In conclusion, I wish to pay a tribute to the Chief Military Observer and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.